



House Select Committee on Homeland Security **Democrats**

JIM TURNER, Ranking Member

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TURNER PRAISES PASSAGE OF FIRST RESPONDER LEGISLATION

Calls Compromise Legislation A Bold Model for Post-9/11 Era

Following passage of legislation to reform the first responder grant programs by the Select Committee on Homeland Security Committee, Ranking Member Jim Turner stated:

The bill before us today represents the best efforts of this Committee to build a streamlined, measurable, and effective grant program to prepare our communities against the threat of terrorism.

I am pleased that the Chairman accepted the core concept of the PREPARE Act, which is a bold new model for distributing federal grant funds to first responders.

The bill departs from the ways of the past by abandoning arbitrary formulas and targeting funding where it is needed the most, while preparing communities across America to respond to terrorism. Our Committee is demonstrating today that the events of September 11, 2001, require a new approach to governing.

H.R. 3266 will restructure the first responder grant system. It will establish a Task Force to determine essential capabilities for first responders, and will distribute funds to build these capabilities based on threat and vulnerability assessments by the Department of Homeland Security. In addition, the bill authorizes \$3.4 billion for first responder grants covered by the bill for fiscal year 2006.

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